

Harrisonburg Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee
Meeting Summary
May 5, 2008, 5:30pm, at Community Development

- Attendance: Thanh Dang (staff), Adam Fletcher (staff), Allison Banks (staff), Charlie Chenault (councilmember), David Wilens (citizen/planning commission), Bill Blessing (citizen/chair trans safety commission), Cindy Reeves (citizen), John Reeves (citizen), Eldon Kurtz (citizen), Len Van Wyk (citizen), Paul Johnson (citizen).
- Welcome/ Announcements
Thanh shared information with the group about No Drive Day at JMU (April 2), Bike To Work Month/Week/Day (May), HRMPO radio spots for Bike To Work Month. Cindy Reeves announced that nearly all the 4500 bicycle helmets she received from a grant have been distributed.
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Priorities, next steps
Thanh shared with the committee that 27 bicycle racks have been installed citywide and 1 more to come at the Farmers Market once the pavilion has been completed.

Thanh announced that the Safe Routes to School grant for Kiester Elementary has been awarded, but full amount requested was not awarded. VDOT did not approve the bicycle lanes or the bump/bulb outs. *(Post-meeting note: Discussion with a Staunton VDOT staff member, Bob Ball, revealed that the bicycle lanes were not funded because there is not a bicycle facility on Central Ave between South Ave and the school.)* City Public Works staff is exploring this issue further and is awaiting response from VDOT.

Signage for Park View Connector is being installed; not yet completed. Paul asked about the bicycle route being designated on S Dogwood as compared to Bicycle Plan. Thanh explained that appropriate designation will follow when we put signs up on other adjacent streets. CDBG grant funding, that was used for this signage, does not cover the geographic area on Willow St. Thanh will explore funding to complete this Route on Water St, Willow St, and Dixie Ave. *(Post-meeting note: Park View Connector does not travel along W Market St, but connects S Dogwood Dr and S Willow St by W Water St. Therefore, the sign or two placed on Dogwood between the Westover entrance and Dixie Ave will need to be moved.)*

Country Club Road rail road crossing investigation. Meeting scheduled for May 12 with members of bicycling community and City staff.

Thanh shared that applications had been submitted for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for E Washington St, Vine St & Old Furnace Rd, Devon Ln, and Virginia Ave. Not yet awarded.

Thanh shared that Thomas Jenkins & Margot Zahner who were not at this meeting wanted to know if JMU had plans to pave a path through the Arboretum from the “Arboretum Trail” to University Blvd. Aaron Smith-Walter was not in attendance to answer the question. Thanh will follow up.

Thanh passed out a list of Priorities identified by the Committee in November 2007 and which had been reviewed by some committee members. Priorities include a list of requested combined bicycle/pedestrian facilities, bicycle facilities and bicycle route designation, and pedestrian facilities. The list of priorities is not ranked in order of priority. With further input from committee members and city staff, Thanh Dang will further develop this list of priorities and determine timeline for several projects for inclusion in the City’s Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Plan. Cindy Reeves asked for completed tasks to be placed at the top of the lists to show progress.

Committee had discussions about THMS/Westover Connection. This project is on hold until further information is received from the property owner.

Committee had discussions about Mt. Clinton Pike. One committee member suggested that Mt Clinton Pike be reduced to 3 travel lanes for bicycle facility accommodations. Thanh and Adam did not think this was feasible, but will explore with other staff options including a multiuse path.

Adam mentioned that Drew Williams and Jim Baker of Public Works were exploring a multiuse path on the south end of the City that would connect with Purcell Park. Thanh suggested that City (closed) landfill/ Ramblewood Park area may also be an option for connections to the south.

- Sub-Committees

Thanh suggested that sub-committees be formed to further projects along.

- Bicycle Clinic (geared towards adults) – Fall 2008, how to safely and comfortably ride to work on the road, etc – There was committee interest in putting this together. Bill shared that the Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Education committee has funds available to contribute to this event for food, refreshments, and advertisement. Cindy and Len expressed interest in being on this subcommittee. Len said he would talk to the Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition and solicit volunteers.
- Safe Routes to School - Waterman Elementary – Margot, not in attendance, suggested that our next SRTS grant application be for Waterman Elementary. Cindy and Charlie concurred. Cindy would like to be on this subcommittee. Thanh stated that new application materials have not yet been posted on the VDOT website, expected posting in Summer 2008.
- Explore box culverts under I-81 – The committee decided that this is a low priority.

- Bicycle Map – existing routes, bicycle rack locations, tips, etc. – There appeared to be little interest at this time. Thanh will begin working on the mapping portion of the project in the meantime and come back to the committee if there is further interest.
- Suggestions for improving City Transportation webpage
 - *Time ran out and no suggestions were solicited. Thanh will work on webpage and solicit comments between now and the August 4th meeting. Please check www.harrisonburgva.gov/publicworks*
- Quarterly Meetings – Next Meeting Date: August 4th 2008 @ 5:30pm
- Adjourn